

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 01330 101519 Z

43

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-08 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 RSC-01 SCA-01 SCSE-00 USIA-12

IO-12 RSR-01 /087 W

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R 101422 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4108
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 1330

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAGR HO

SUBJ: GOH ASKS FOR DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 1265

1. CHIEF OF STATE GENERAL LOPEZ THIS MORNING (APR 9)
ASKED AMBASSADOR RYAN FOR USG ASSISTANCE TO MEET DISASTER
CONDITIONS CAUSED BY DROUGHT IN SOUTHERN AND SOUTH
CENTRAL PARTS OF COUNTRY. HE SAID THAT BASIC AND MEDIUM-
TERM ASSISTANCE WOULD BE NEEDED EVEN AFTER BEGINNING OF
WET SEASON (MAY OR JUNE) SINCE PROJECTED LONG- TERM
PROGRAMS TO RESTRUCTURE WATER AVAILABILITY WOULD NOT
SHOW RESULTS FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

2. ON BASIS OF THIS REQUEST, DCM AND AID DIRECTOR
DISCUSSED PROBLEM THIS AFTERNOON WITH C/ STAFF COL. DE LA
CRUZ HERNANDEZ, WHO WAS LAST WEEK NAMED CHIEF OF NATIONAL
EMERGENCY COUNCIL (REFTEL).

3. COL. HERNANDEZ TOLD US THAT HIS COUNCIL HAD JUST
BEGUN STUDIES OF SITUATION AND THAT HE COULD STILL NOT
SPECIFY PARTICULAR REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSISTANCE AT THIS
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PAGE 02 TEGUCI 01330 101519 Z

DATE. HIS GROUP EMBODIES SEVERAL OFFICIAL SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS (E. G. RED CROSS) AND IT WAS CONSULTING WITH OTHERS, SUCH AS CARE AND NATIONAL WELFARE COUNCIL. AN OVERRIDING AIM OF CREATION OF COUNCIL WAS TO CENTRALIZE AND COORDINATE PLANNING OF DIVERSE BODIES AND MINISTRIES. HE HOPES TO HAVE DETAILED STUDY AVAILABLE SOON, UPON WHICH HE WILL CONTACT US PROMPTLY WITH SOME CONCRETE REQUESTS.

4. HE SAID THAT PROBLEM WAS THREEFOLD: (1) DROUGHT AND UNAVAILABILITY OF WATER, (2) SCARCITY OF FOOD WHICH WILL NOW PERSIST LONG AFTER DRY SEASON ENDS, AND (3) FLOOD CONTROL. IN LATTER CONNECTION, GOH EXPECTS EXTENSIVE FLOODING IN SULA VALLEY AND IN NORTH COAST AREA THIS YEAR.

5. AID DIRECTOR MENTIONED IN GENERAL TERMS SOME POSSIBILITIES OF ASSISTANCE, SUCH AS SATELLITE PHOTOS TO DISCOVER WATER SOURCES FOR WELLS. HE CAUTIONED THAT FOOD AND GRAIN SUPPLIES WERE IN SHORT SUPPLY IN US AND THAT HELP IN THIS FIELD WOULD BE DIFFICULT. HE SUGGESTED THAT GOH CONTACT UN REPS ON FOOD PROBLEM VIA WORLD FOOD PROGRAM.

5. WE WILL NOW AWAIT PROMISED BREAKDOWN OF SPECIFIC NEEDS FROM GOH.

RYAN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TEGUCI01330
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730439/aaaaicwy.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 TEGUCIGALPA 1265
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by averetam>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2002 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971218
Subject: GOH ASKS FOR DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE
TAGS: EAGR, HO
To: ARA
GUATEMALA
MANAGUA
SAN JOSE
SAN SALVADOR
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005